



2009 School Food Service Equipment Assistance Grants Economic Stimulus Package

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) has received information from U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding the amount of funding Iowa will receive from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), Public Law 111-5. Iowa's share of these funds will be \$823,633.00. As stipulated in the ARRA, priority will be given to School Food Authorities (SFAs) for equipment for schools in which at least 50 percent of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, although all are eligible to apply.

Equipment requests may include new equipment, renovation of equipment, or replacement of equipment. USDA has identified the following focus areas for funding:

- Equipment that lends itself to improving the quality of school food service meals that meet the dietary guidelines (e.g., purchasing as equipment alternative to a deep fryer)
- Equipment that improves the safety of food served in the school meal program. (e.g., cold/hot holding equipment, dish washing equipment, refrigeration, milk coolers, freezers, blast chillers, etc)
- Equipment that improves the overall energy efficiency of the school foodservice operations (e.g. purchase of an energy-efficient walk-in freezer replacing an outdated, energy-demanding freezer)
- Equipment that allows SFAs to support expanded participation in a school meal program (e.g., equipment for serving meals in a non-traditional setting or to better utilize cafeteria space)

SFAs are required to follow all federal, state and local procurement laws when purchasing equipment under these grants. The DE is in the process of developing the grant application documents and anticipates requests for grant applications to be distributed before the end of April. If you have questions after reviewing the materials, contact Patti Harding at patti.harding@iowa.gov and identify in subject line ARRA Equipment Assistance Grant.